

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F9/007 B23K26/00 B23K26/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 03/028940 A (NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY) 10 April 2003 (2003-04-10) paragraphs '0011!, '0016!, '0039!, '0045! - '0047!, '0064! - '0066!; claims 8-11; figures 1,10-12 -----	1-12
A	EP 0 764 858 A (CARL ZEISS; CARL ZEISS-STIFTUNG HANDELND ALS CARL ZEISS; CARL ZEISS SM) 26 March 1997 (1997-03-26) cited in the application column 4, line 34 - column 7, line 4 -----	1,5-7
A	US 6 268 586 B1 (STUART BRENT C ET AL) 31 July 2001 (2001-07-31) column 2, line 55 - column 5, line 36; claims 1,20; figures 5,6 ----- -/-	1

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

Date of mailing of the International search report

7 June 2005

15/06/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 470 329 A (SUMIYA ET AL) 28 November 1995 (1995-11-28) column 4, line 21 - column 6, line 7 column 7, line 4 - line 19; figures 5-9,18 -----	2-4,6, 11,12
X	EP 0 257 836 A (L'ESPERANCE, FRANCIS A; VISX INCORPORATED) 2 March 1988 (1988-03-02) column 8, line 19 - line 36 column 12, line 21 - column 13, line 18 column 23, line 40 - line 53; figures 1,8-11 -----	2,3,6,9, 11
X	WO 93/25166 A (SUMMIT TECHNOLOGY, INC) 23 December 1993 (1993-12-23)	2,6,11
Y	page 12, line 16 - page 16, line 32 page 18, line 29 - line 33 page 20, line 21 - page 24, line 10; figures 3-7 -----	12
X	US 5 219 343 A (L'ESPERANCE, JR. ET AL) 15 June 1993 (1993-06-15) column 6, line 31 - column 7, line 4; figures 10,11 -----	2,6,11
Y	US 4 826 299 A (POWELL ET AL) 2 May 1989 (1989-05-02) cited in the application the whole document -----	12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/003066

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 13–19
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

PCT Rule 39.1(iv) – method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery.
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Information on patent family members

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